

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy, comprising:

- (a) obtaining a urine sample;
- (b) contacting said sample with a reagent comprising an anti-megsin protein antibody;
- (c) measuring the amount of megsin protein bound to said anti-megsin protein antibody; and
- (d) comparing said amount with the megsin protein amount present in a control urine sample from a healthy individual ; and
- (e) diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy when said amount of bound megsin protein is higher than that in the control sample.

2. - 4. (Canceled)

²
~~5.~~ (Previously Presented) The method for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 1, wherein the anti-megsin protein antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

³
~~6.~~ (Previously Presented) A reagent for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy, which comprises ~~an~~ a first anti-megsin protein antibody that recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, and a second antibody that recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11, wherein said first anti-megsin protein antibody is bound to the surface of a granule.

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~~7.~~ (Previously Presented) The reagent for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim ³~~6~~, wherein the first and second anti-megsin protein antibodies are both monoclonal antibodies.

8. - 11. (Canceled)

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~~12~~. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, comprising the following steps of:

- (i) contacting said biological specimen with a solid granule, wherein a first anti-megsin protein antibody is bound to the surface of said granule to ~~for~~ form a first antibody megsin protein complex;
- (ii) contacting said granule with a second anti-megsin protein antibody labeled with a marker molecule to obtain first antibody megsin protein-second antibody complex; and,
- (iii) detecting the megsin protein by detection of marker molecule in the complex obtained in step (ii),

wherein said first antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12, and said second antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

⁶ ⁵
~~13~~. (Original) The method for detection of claim ~~12~~, wherein the first anti-megsin protein antibody and the second anti-megsin protein antibody are both monoclonal antibodies.

14. (Canceled)

⁷ ⁵
~~15~~. (Original) The method for detection of claim ~~12~~, wherein the biological specimen is urine.

⁸ ⁵
~~16~~. (Original) The method for detection of claim ~~12~~, wherein the biological specimen is blood.

⁹
~~17~~. (Previously Presented) A kit for detecting megsin proteins, which comprises the following elements:

- (a) a solid magnetic granule for detecting megsin protein in a biological specimen, wherein an anti-megsin protein antibody recognizing a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12 is bound to the surface of the granule;
- (b) a magnet; and

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(c) an anti-megsin protein antibody labeled with a marker molecule, wherein said antibody recognizes a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

18. (Canceled)

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~~19~~. (Previously Presented) The method for diagnosing mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy of claim 1, wherein the mesangial cell proliferative nephropathy is IgA nephropathy or minimal-change nephritic syndrome.